

Intervention: Support interdisciplinary forums for evidence and dissemination of research within public health

Finding: Insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

Interdisciplinary forums include public health practice peer-reviewed journals, conferences, monographs and proceedings. The goal of these forums is to expand methodologies for conducting practice research and emphasize new approaches to measuring and evaluating population health.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

A consensus study found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of interdisciplinary forums for evidence and dissemination of scholarship within the public health field. Practices that lack sufficient research to support effectiveness should not be confused with ineffective programs. Rather, they should be recognized as programs that have the potential to become evidence-based practices—if properly evaluated. Practitioners are encouraged to monitor the impact of these programs in their communities and report on their findings in order to build a base of knowledge sufficient to reach consensus.

Limitations/Comments:

The research cited was based on recommendations from the Council of Public Health Practice Coordinators of the Association of Schools of Public Health in a consensus study.

References:

Wright K, Nelson J, Potter M, Quill, B. Demonstrating Excellence in Academic Public Health Practice. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* 2000; 6(1):10-24.